

the 3rd Infantry Division, and the Marine Expeditionary Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom. They fought for nearly a year in the streets of Baghdad and Ramadhi.

Many of those soldiers returned in April 2004 and were quickly deployed last summer to assist Floridians throughout our state who were devastated by four hurricane strikes. They served for up to 70 days helping with our state-wide recovery effort.

A large number of the troops my wife Beverly and I met with today at Camp Shelby are eagerly volunteering for a return to Southwest Asia to serve with Task Force Phoenix after having served earlier tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The troops that deploy for this mission join 1,976 Florida Army Guard and 200 Florida Air Guard troops who are currently deployed overseas. Since 9/11, 6,980 of the Florida Guard's 12,000 soldiers and airmen have been activated overseas to join in the international war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor and a privilege to be with these soldiers today to see the spirit of pride and devotion with which they serve. They are America's Team that seeks to root out terrorists to protect our nation and our allies. Their motto is "From the Front!" which is where Florida's Guardsmen have found themselves over the almost 4 years that we have fought this international campaign against terrorists. Under the outstanding leadership of Florida's Adjutant General Douglas Burnett, the 53rd Brigade Combat Team is ready to carry out this latest mission to serve as ambassadors for freedom and peace overseas. They are a credit to our state, our Nation, and the United States Army.

HONORING FRANK PEPE PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, early in the twentieth century, Frank Pepe, an Italian immigrant living in New Haven, created the first American pizza by putting tomatoes on top of old bake-shop bread. The creation was so popular that he opened America's first pizzeria on Wooster Street—and so the local legend of Pepe's pizza is recounted. Today, I am proud to stand and join the thousands of Pepe's fans across the Nation in extending my sincere congratulations to Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana and the Pepe Family as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this New Haven institution!

When Frank and Filomena opened their pizzeria in 1925, pizza was not considered a delicacy or a treat that you found on every street corner—in fact, it was a peasant meal. With hard work, countless hours, and dedication the Pepe's created a successful business that carried themselves and their extended family through the Great Depression and allowed them to raise their two children, Elizabeth and Serafina (Betty and Sarah). Throughout the years, Pepe's popularity grew outside the Italian-American community of Wooster Street and for four generations enthusiastic cus-

tomers have returned with their own families. The excitement and loyalty of their customers has never wavered—a truth that is reflected in the long lines of anxious patrons that are a constant on Wooster Street.

In fact, Pepe's has even inspired other pizza entrepreneurs, the first of which was Frank's nephew Sal Consiglio who opened his own restaurant, Sally's, just steps from his uncle's restaurant. Years later another former employee opened Randy's Wooster Street Pizza Shop.

When Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana first opened in 1925, it was the dream of Frank and his wife Filomena to have a successful neighborhood business where friends and neighbors could gather. Frank and Filomena could have only dreamed of the success their small business has come to be. Four generations later, the business is still run by family and the walls are still adorned with family photos as well as those of Bill Murray, Meryl Streep, and Matthew Broderick—just a few of the stars who have dined at Pepe's in the past. Their pizza is legendary and the ambience is unforgettable—enjoyed by neighbors and celebrities alike. However, it is not just the pizza that make Pepe's such a special part of our community. It is the history and community spirit of Frank Pepe and his family that has made it a New Haven landmark.

Today, as they mark their 80th anniversary, it is not just a celebration of a successful family business, but of a thriving community treasure. It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to join Frank Pepe's children, Elizabeth and Serafina, grandchildren, Anthony, Francis, Lisa, Bernadette, Genevieve, Jennifer, and Gary, as well as their family, friends, and extended family of customers and fans as they celebrate this very special occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD COUNCIL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize several members of my district who have given their time in support of Congressional Award program.

Since 1979, the Congressional Award program has encouraged young people around the Nation to learn about their community, their government and themselves. Taking part in the program, young men and women ages 14 through 23 challenge themselves to accomplish established goals in voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and an expedition. Participants earn bronze, silver and gold medals based on their levels of achievement. This is a non-competitive, highly individualized program allowing all young people, whether fit or disabled, affluent or disadvantaged, to get involved.

Within Florida's First District, I have had the unparalleled support of the Congressional Award Council, most recently led by Martha Krehely. This council is one of only four chartered in the nation and has been a backbone in nurturing the program over the last decade.

Mrs. Krehely, along with her husband Don, Ann Ball, Jacqueline Young, Margaret Restucher, James Sheffer, Lamar Smith, Thomas Gilliam, Honor Bell, Henry Giles and Jeff Weeks, have selflessly devoted hundreds of hours over the years to young men and women working to achieve their goals. Through their efforts the program has grown so that over 120 young adults are currently participating.

Their tireless commitment led to dozens of participants earning their bronze, silver and gold medals. As several members move on to other challenges, we can all be grateful for the strength and character they helped foster in the lives of our future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the First Congressional District's Congressional Award Council and wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ADAP) FUNDING

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, ADAP, and the dire need for increased funding to help meet the needs of Americans living with HIV and AIDS. This necessary program provides medication to under and uninsured HIV/AIDS patients. Without ADAP, these people would not be able to obtain the necessary medication to prolong and improve their lives.

Every year since its inception, the number of people helped by ADAP has increased dramatically. While we are all aware of the limited resources this committee has been given to meet its many pressing needs, the ADAP program is simply and urgently a matter of life and death for over 136,000 Americans each year.

ADAP has been given a \$10 million increase in this year's appropriations bill over last year, but the reality is that to keep pace with current and anticipated patient needs, ADAP requires a funding increase of \$303 million. Without this funding, some 25,000–35,000 HIV+ Americans who may have relied on ADAP will not be able to this year.

In my home state of New York, where more than 22,000 people are enrolled in ADAP each year, I know first-hand the importance of the ADAP program. New York has been particularly hard-hit by the AIDS epidemic, with more than 160,000 residents diagnosed with AIDS, and 150,000 to 200,000 persons currently living with HIV/AIDS. The state government has been extremely supportive of ADAP, appropriating \$60 million for 2005 to supplement the federal program.

Despite New York's statewide commitment, there are dozens of states that find themselves unable to keep up with the demand for coverage under ADAP. As documented in the National ADAP Monitoring Report, some states are being forced to take drastic measures to offset the federal funding shortfall, including establishing waiting lists for AIDS medications, reducing drug coverage, and restricting eligibility.

This has contributed to the pool of several hundred thousand HIV+ Americans who are unable to access available appropriate treatment for their HIV disease. This is dangerous to their personal health and quality of life, as well as to the public health. This ensures that more costly hospital interventions will be forthcoming in federal, state, local, and private funding streams, as HIV progresses without proper treatment.

I urge the conference committee to fully fund ADAP at \$303 million. All Americans living with HIV/AIDS must get the help they need to purchase their medications and save and improve their lives.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the courage, spirit and resiliency of refugees around the world and the compassion, generosity and valor of those who have helped them rebuild their lives. The amazing stories of these people are an inspiration to us all.

The lives of refugees are driven by fear of persecution based on race, religion or nationality; or even by membership in a particular social group or political opinion. The United States government plays a unique role in protecting the human rights of current refugees, resolving the conflicts and problems that produce refugees and preventing further refugee crises. Our government must remain a world leader in protecting the human rights of all refugees.

According to statistics from the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, as of December 31, 2004 there are approximately 11.5 million refugees and asylum seekers worldwide. The United States has the capacity and the potential to receive many more refugees: in fiscal year 2004, the refugee ceiling was set at 70,000, while admissions into the United States totaled only 52,875.

I challenge the United States government to ensure a fair process for determining refugee status and to provide physical protection for those seeking asylum. Moreover, the United States should not unnecessarily detain refugee seekers in an attempt to deter them or others from seeking asylum in the United States; such a process is fundamentally contrary to the hope of freedom and democracy that our country represents.

I applaud the United States government for granting refugees basic human rights such as access to work, the means to earn a livelihood and the freedom of movement.

As a representative from California, a State with one of the highest number of refugee arrivals each year, I know there is much yet to be done to protect the rights of refugees.

Mr. Speaker, honoring the courage of refugees requires more than mere praise; we need concrete actions and durable solutions. In their battle against despair, let us be an ally to refugees; let us provide a glimmer of hope; let us be the beacon that America has always symbolized.

PAUL KRUGMAN'S ESSAY ENTITLED "THE WAR PRESIDENT"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I recommend to my colleagues Paul Krugman's essay entitled "The War President" which was published in today's New York Times. How this country gets involved in a war always matters and since Congress has the Constitutional power to declare war, every Member of Congress must know how we got there, what we're doing there now and how the war shall end.

[From the New York Times, Jun. 24, 2005]

THE WAR PRESIDENT

(By Paul Krugman)

In this former imperial capital, every square seems to contain a giant statue of a Habsburg on horseback, posing as a conquering hero.

America's founders knew all too well how war appeals to the vanity of rulers and their thirst for glory. That's why they took care to deny presidents the kingly privilege of making war at their own discretion.

But after 9/11 President Bush, with obvious relish, declared himself a "war president." And he kept the nation focused on martial matters by morphing the pursuit of Al Qaeda into a war against Saddam Hussein.

In November 2002, Helen Thomas, the veteran White House correspondent, told an audience, "I have never covered a president who actually wanted to go to war"—but she made it clear that Mr. Bush was the exception. And she was right.

Leading the nation wrongfully into war strikes at the heart of democracy. It would have been an unprecedented abuse of power even if the war hadn't turned into a military and moral quagmire. And we won't be able to get out of that quagmire until we face up to the reality of how we got in.

Let me talk briefly about what we now know about the decision to invade Iraq, then focus on why it matters.

The administration has prevented any official inquiry into whether it hyped the case for war. But there's plenty of circumstantial evidence that it did.

And then there's the Downing Street Memo—actually the minutes of a prime minister's meeting in July 2002—in which the chief of British overseas intelligence briefed his colleagues about his recent trip to Washington.

"Bush wanted to remove Saddam," says the memo, "through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and W.M.D. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy." It doesn't get much clearer than that.

The U.S. news media largely ignored the memo for five weeks after it was released in The Times of London. Then some asserted that it was "old news" that Mr. Bush wanted war in the summer of 2002, and that W.M.D. were just an excuse. No, it isn't. Media insiders may have suspected as much, but they didn't inform their readers, viewers and listeners. And they have never held Mr. Bush accountable for his repeated declarations that he viewed war as a last resort.

Still, some of my colleagues insist that we should let bygones be bygones. The question, they say, is what we do now. But they're wrong: it's crucial that those responsible for the war be held to account.

Let me explain. The United States will soon have to start reducing force levels in

Iraq, or risk seeing the volunteer Army collapse. Yet the administration and its supporters have effectively prevented any adult discussion of the need to get out.

On one side, the people who sold this war, unable to face up to the fact that their fantasies of a splendid little war have led to disaster, are still peddling illusions: the insurgency is in its "last throes," says Dick Cheney. On the other, they still have moderates and even liberals intimidated: anyone who suggests that the United States will have to settle for something that falls far short of victory is accused of being unpatriotic.

We need to deprive these people of their ability to mislead and intimidate. And the best way to do that is to make it clear that the people who led us to war on false pretenses have no credibility, and no right to lecture the rest of us about patriotism.

The good news is that the public seems ready to hear that message—readier than the media are to deliver it. Major media organizations still act as if only a small, left-wing fringe believes that we were misled into war, but that "fringe" now comprises much if not most of the population.

In a Gallup poll taken in early April—that is, before the release of the Downing Street Memo—50 percent of those polled agreed with the proposition that the administration "deliberately misled the American public" about Iraq's W.M.D. In a new Rasmussen poll, 49 percent said that Mr. Bush was more responsible for the war than Saddam Hussein, versus 44 percent who blamed Saddam.

Once the media catch up with the public, we'll be able to start talking seriously about how to get out of Iraq.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2475.

I commend the leadership of the Chairman and Ranking Member, and thank them for supporting the amendment I offered at markup to align the authorization for an important technical program with the level set by the Armed Services Committee.

H.R. 2475 also underscores the importance the Committee places on providing full-funding of intelligence requirements related to the global war on terrorism. For years, Intelligence Committee Democrats have fought hard for this. If fact, some of us voted against the intelligence bill last year because it contained less than one-third of the funding needed for counterterrorism. This year, I'm pleased the Committee has finally brought a bill before the House that provides full intelligence funding for our dedicated men and women on the front lines.

This bill also includes House Resolution 173, a measure which encourages the DNI to establish a uniform, multi-tiered security clearance system. Such a system is needed to ensure all intelligence agencies fully-leverage the cultural knowledge and foreign language skills of people who may not be able to be cleared, in a timely manner, to the highest levels. It will also help increase the workforce diversity and skills-mix, both of which are critical to the future success and viability of the Intelligence Community.